

REMARKS

The indication of the allowability of Claims 5-9 is noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicants assume that the reference to Claim 6 in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) was unintended and thus not rejected. Claims 5 and 6 have now been rewritten in proper independent form, whereby Claims 5-9 should now be allowed.

The rejection of Claims 1-4, 6 [sic] and 10-14 as being unpatentable over Okamoto et al under 35 U.S.C. § 1-3(a) is traversed, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Statements such as “obvious choice of mechanical design...” and to “optimize or select” are merely general conclusions that are not the type of substantial record evidence necessary to make a prima facie case of obviousness. See, for example, In re Lee, 61 USPQ2d 1430, 1432-33 (Fed. Cir. 2002). Documentation, not general conclusions, is necessary for the PTO to make a Section 103 rejection. Such documentation has not been forthcoming here.

In any event, Applicants have amended independent Claims 11 and 13, and have added new Claim 21 in a manner which unquestionably defines over the Okamoto et al. patent. These claims define an arrangement in which a stable combustion area or region is extended because the lead spray can with certainty be led about the spark plug and the subsequent main spray is guided about the spark plug without the airflow unlike the Okamoto et al. arrangement. The present invention makes possible the stratification of the mixture even when the engine starts up and when the engine is operated in the low rotational speed

region thus resulting in reduced emissions. Furthermore, the claimed numerical values are not mere optimization or obvious selections because they allow the claimed lead spray and main spray to be created.

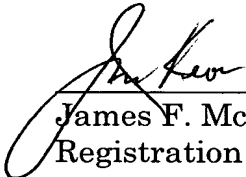
Accordingly, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056207.52536US).

Respectfully submitted,

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James F. McKeown
Registration No. 25,406

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
JFM:vlc
#361748